



highworth community church | september 2018

# CONTACT

registered charity no. 1080002

## WELCOME

God is good, and we have lots to celebrate. If this is your first time here at Highworth Community Church, then you're especially welcome. We hope that you enjoy your time with us.

We start together with a time of worship, which is very relaxed and open for all to participate in. After the worship time, the children and young people will leave for their own groups (follow the crowd or look for the signs), whilst there's a time of teaching from the Bible, usually by one of the church leaders. On those weeks marked All Age Worship (AAW) we all stay in the service together.

We are really glad you're here and would like the opportunity to get to know you. We always have tea and coffee available before and after the meeting so please stay and chat.



## ALL CHANGE, NO CHANGE

by Matt Ford

When I first visited HCC, I was asked the question, 'What is your vision for the Church?' My reply probably wasn't the best one to garner favour and confidence but I said what I believed, 'I haven't got one!'

Now this was not an empty-headed, clueless thought but a deep conviction that Jesus started this local expression of His global family, that Jesus had been at work the last thirty or so years, and discovering this and

moving forward from this discovery was essential if we were to see Christ's dream for His people become a greater reality.

This month we are launching the new look Bridge Centre. The downstairs is decorated, has new lights, a new floor and an airy peaceful feel. We have a large Upper Room Prayer Space which will facilitate a rhythm of prayer and enable relationships with each other and God to happen and grow (creation in process). CAP have their own office space and so does the Church! It's a new season and The Bridge Centre reflects this.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

### 02 September

**Speaker:** Ken Ford (AAW)

**Worship Leaders:** Kathryn Ford/Tessa Hares

**Set-up:** Phil Smith (RED)

### 09 September

**Speaker:** Matt Ford

**Worship Leaders:** Jim Thring/Janet Hodgson

**Set-up:** Adrian Hares (GREEN)

### 16 September

**Speaker:** Matt Ford

**Worship Leaders:** Will Pearce/Daw Golton

**Set-up:** Adrian Hares (GREEN)

### 23 September

**Speaker:** Sharon Eason

**Worship Leaders:** Jon Grant-Willson/Adrian Hill

**Set-up:** Matt Ford (YELLOW)

### 30 September

**Speaker:** Matt Ford (AAW)

**Worship Leaders:** Kathryn Ford/Tessa Hares

**Set-up:** Matt Ford (YELLOW)

### Highworth Community Church

Registered Office: The Bridge Centre,  
8 Sheep Street, Highworth SN6 7AA

T: 01793 765060

W: [highworthcommunitychurch.org](http://highworthcommunitychurch.org)

E: [admin@highworthchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@highworthchurch.co.uk)

Find us on

[www.highworthcommunitychurch.org](http://www.highworthcommunitychurch.org)

The Bridge came out of a vision in around 1998 for a place where the HCC community could meet up with those who would never enter a church. At that time HCC was the 'Invisible Church'. There was no place the local community could find us. It was felt that God was calling us to serve people. We were not sure in which way but trusted God to lead us into the areas of need that we would discover.

Taking on 8 Sheep Street gave us a problem of what to call it—"The Bridge" seemed to fit what God was calling us to do—so we went with it. Above all our desire was for it to be a place where our visitors met Jesus.

A secondary part of the vision was for a place where our staff could work out of.

Little did we realise the number of staff we would have twenty years later! As a base it meant that people from the community could find us. Praise God that it is becoming increasingly fulfilled.'

The new Bridge is only a furtherance of the old, an opportunity to build on and develop the heart that is to serve our community. So all change no change.

God is taking us forward but from where we were. Our job, every one of us, is to hold on to what God has been doing whilst being open and responsive to what He is now saying.

May God richly bless us all on this journey.

— Phil Baker

So don't miss out! If we focus on God—and not on our past hurts or future worries—we will all find our part in the glorious (and challenging) story that is unfolding.

**WE NEED PEOPLE TO HELP CREATE A RHYTHM OF PRAYER, SO WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE DETAILS.**

## UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS AT THE FUN DAY

by Con Lucas

The Fun Day was a special day for me, it was a day filled with fun, laughter and many prayers. I was part of the prayer team in the Prayer Tent and during the day we were able to pray with people who came into the tent with many different problems. I was also one of the First Aider's on duty. God was good: the only casualty I had all day was a lady with a wasp sting and luckily I had some wasp sting cream in my bag which Annette had given me.

Our instructions at the start of the day were not to stay in the Prayer Tent all the time but to go for a walk and be on the look out for anybody who looked troubled or worried in any way and chat to them.

About lunchtime I decided to go for a walk to see what was going on and have a cup of tea. I had just had a drink of tea when a elderly man asked me if the tea was

any good. I said yes and got him a cup. He looked troubled as if he had a lot on his mind so I asked him if he would like to talk about what was worrying him, and he agreed. We sat on some straw bales and chatted. He told me his name was Don and how lonely he felt since his wife had died and how much he was missing her. I began sharing with him how much he was loved by Jesus, that Jesus was with him all the time holding him in his loving arms. He then shared with me that he said his prayers. I asked if he would like me to pray with him, he agreed so we held hands and prayed together about all the things that were troubling him.

I thought later what people passing by made of two elderly men holding hands and praying! I believe God thought that was exactly what was needed at that time.



## SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE

**01 - 09 September**

**The Bridge Centre will be closed for redevelopment**

**03 September**

**Small Groups meet this week**

**04 September**

**Highworth Churches Together Prayer Meeting**

8pm, Highworth Methodist Church

**11 September**

**Pastoral Team Meeting**

7:30pm, The Bridge Centre

**12 September**

**River and Bridge Blessing**

8pm, The Bridge Centre

**17 September**

**Small Groups meet this week**

**25 September**

**Evening for New Worshippers**

8pm, The Bridge Centre

Since that time I have been to see Don and spent some time hearing about his family, sharing together and praying together. I will certainly be visiting him again.

A simple question about what a cup of tea was like led to more than I could have ever imagined. Jesus certainly uses unexpected places at unexpected times to make Himself known. All we have to do is be prepared to allow Him to work through us.

# WEEKLY EVENTS

## Every Tuesday

### Craft Group

11am-12noon, The Bridge

### Tuesday Group for school years 7-9 (term time)

6:30-8pm, St Michael's Church

### Tuesday Group for school years 10+ (term time)

8-9:30pm, Jon and Lizzie's

## Every Wednesday

### Bible Study

9:30-10:30am, The Bridge

### Nursery Rhymes with Jon (term time)

11-11:30am, The Bridge

## Every Thursday

### Little Treasures Toddler Group (term time)

9:45-11:15am, Community Centre

## Every Friday

### Friday Blessings

9:15am, Highworth Methodist Church

# MARLBOROUGH OUTREACH

**Gen Maxted-Tidy has been part of the mission team working on outreach in Marlborough. Here she tells us a little of her experiences.**



### *What was the Marlborough Outreach?*

The Marlborough Outreach was many things! Initially, it was a fact-finding mission to uncover and explore God's plan for the

area with our Marlborough-based church family, and that did remain our overall purpose and mission the past six months. However, what God has done in and through us as a group and as individuals has been so much more. We were seeking to understand what a fresh expression of church looked like in Marlborough and, I believe, that we became something of this as we journeyed together.

### *Why did you sign up?*

I signed up for a new adventure with God, to learn, to get to know Him more, to give Him permission to work in my heart and to be reinvigorated in my connection with Him and a wider community. I was not disappointed!

### *What did the Outreach look like?*

Every two weeks we would travel to and from Marlborough together in Matt's van where we would share, pray and worship. (It's amazing how connection grows when we intentionally journey together!). Every week looked different, though every week had one thing in particular in common: we consistently showed up surrendered (sometimes deliberately but very often because we felt depleted from our busy weeks and other assorted 'life stuff' and had no choice—there is a lesson in this I think we have all felt deeply), and allowed God to guide us into His will. We worshipped in a decommissioned church, empty from years of secular use, experienced the beauty of God's presence in the chapel at Marlborough College, blessed and loved people we met around the town, prayed over Marlborough at sunset from the heights of the Marlborough Downs—with cows!—and shared our hearts with each other, opening them to God as we went. Our activities were varied, but the Holy Spirit was the same every time: kind, adventurous and full of grace.

### *What was hard?*

The surrendering bit! I discovered that comfort is not the same as freedom and my need for control stands perpetually in the way of my ability to fully trust. Our comfort zones hold us captive but Jesus never would! Every week we were challenged to do things FAR outside our comfort and experience. Allowing God to speak often leads to the need for obedience and, in signing up to

be part of the Marlborough outreach, I was ready to be obedient. However, it was so hard at times to confront the fear of what might happen if I actually stepped out. We did step out though, every single time. It was such a blessing to feel the same fear as everyone else and to see the Holy Spirit show up in everyone, time and again, giving each of us a boldness and fervour we never dreamed we could possess. It was truly incredible to see the look of joy on the faces of those who had just done something new and exciting for God.

### *What did God do?*

He honoured our showing up by showing up. He showed us His heart for His people and His church. I personally believe He has shown us that church CAN look different and that, in fact, it probably should now. This is something, in my view, we need to press into very intentionally. Now IS the time for boldness and fervour but also for prayer, connection, listening and corporate surrender. He has shown me that a very prosperous façade can easily hide deep pain and a poverty that goes beyond financial lack and He has broken down some very big walls in my heart so that I am different now to when the mission began. Most importantly though, He has taught me that in being vulnerable and honest with each other, journeying together and being obedient even when we are afraid (of failing, of looking stupid or of enormous, giant, terrifying cows), is an important key to opening our hearts to Him in a way that means we are changed and will bring change. This allows us to become a fresh expression of church to our nation.

'Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert'. - Isaiah 43:19 (CSB)

### *Are you pleased you went?*

Absolutely!

## Introduction to Lifeskills Course (with lunch)

Wednesdays, 1pm

The Bridge Centre

Contact Ioli or Kathryn for more details





Soul Survivor

# SOUL SURVIVOR MEMORIES 2018

by Ethan Ford

On the the 24th of August at 9am, a group comprising of almost thirty hyperactive teens and kids, alongside their slightly less enthused escorts, were squeezed into a minibus and driven two-and-a-half hours. Travelling bunched together across the rolling hills and sporadic orchids of the English countryside to arrive at a large field covered in various fluorescent tents for as far as the eye can see. Soul Survivor.

As with any camp like this the majority of one's time is spent around your group's little village of tents. As luck would have it we managed to get our area allocated next to the youth group that alot of us were friends with—Rotchford Youth. Time spent enjoying each others company, dissolving lifelong friendships in particularly intense games of *Uno* and inevitably reforging those bonds over bowls of various reheated camping sauces and soups that taste a

great deal better than their less than stellar presentation is always the highpoint of a trip like this.

However it seems we lost out on the great British weather roulette. Most of you will likely not have noticed cocooned in your cozy brick houses and radiators but over that weekend we got hit by quite the ice age. An ice age which thin layers of fabric, summer sleeping bags and deflating air beds could do little to combat. Trapped in twelve hours of all invading cold we were left with no option; throw on every piece of clothing we had bought with us, a solution that finally carried us to sleep. However despite these early mishaps and the normal sanitation and virus problems, by the second half of the five-day trip the sun was shining and we could truly enjoy ourselves.

Then of course the other half of this trip was the events. We all had a brilliant time worshipping partying and listening to great

speakers like Tim Ross and Mike Pilavachi over the course of the twice daily meetings. However this was far from all there was on offer; food trucks sated our hunger while a quick trip into the basement yielded a plethora of activities from a *Total Wipeout*-esque machine, optimally designed to make sure it knocked you flat on your butt as much as possible, to a skate park and even an area for parkour to burn off the excessive waffle calories.

Then there where the parties like the silent disco and even a gig from the bestselling rapper Guvna B. Those were the events that kept the majority of us away from our beds past midnight.

And so almost too tired to set down our tents properly, five days after we arrived we once more squeezed back into the minibus to begin our journey back from Peterborough Arena and one of the most enjoyable five days of our lives.

'I found I was able to worship freely there. The atmosphere was so unlike anything else - so many people in the same place, all at different points in their lives, all worshipping the same awesome God. It was also so beautiful to see our group support each other and grow really close, and I really valued spending time praying with people and getting to know people that I hadn't previously spent time with.' — Hannah

'Jesus filled, kids were thrilled > Spirit led, not much time for bed. Friendship and fun, good time had by everyone - drop the mic! I think the good Lord has released my poetic licence!' — Natalie

'I enjoyed feeling really close to God and sharing the presence of God with everyone. The feeling of no one judging you was amazing. I loved spending time with everyone else and learning about God together.' — George W

'I had fun at Soul it made me smile. A great bonding experience for leaders and youth.' — Rhys

'Had so much fun camping with the other church, got to know everyone a little bit better.' — Nathan

'So proud of how the young people prayed for each other independently. Loved to see them grow in their faith over a few days. Especially loved the fun and laughter we all shared together (wake and shake particularly).' — Deb

'An amazing experience with God with an amazing team of youth.' — Richard W

'I loved the talks, especially Tim Ross talking about how to pray. The fun events: the wipeout inflatable, the uv party and the emoji party- wow! Being with everyone else was the best!' — Ned

'Soul was very spiritually resting as well as a fun time to hang out with leader and friends- there wasnt much of a difference. I have blogged on YouTube on my channel OnlyTheDaniel.' — Dan